Export of Foodgrains

3846. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to increase foodgrains export from the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details regarding the quantity and price of foodgrains exported to different countries during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Government has taken various steps to promote export of foodgrains:—

(1) Rice & Wheat are being offered for export from the Central Pool;

(2) Government also proposes to reimburse post delivery expenses permissible within the framework of WTO requirements;

(3) Exporters have been given the option of selecting stocks from depots of their choice;

(4) An Empowered Standing Committee under the Charimanship of Secretary (F&PD) has been set up to take expeditious decisions on matters relating to exports;

(5) Prices of wheat & rice offered from the Central Pool for export are fixed for a period of three months and announced 45 days in advance to facilitate international negotiations for exports.

(c) The details of the quantity of foodgrains lifted for export to different countries and rates offered by FCI to the exporters are as under:—

Export of Wheat

(Figures in lakh MT, Rate Rs. per MT)

Year	Lifted	Rate	From	Upto
2000-01	16,93,390	4150/-	20.10.2000	31.03.2001
		4300/-	01.04.2001	16.08.2001
2001-02	39,90,036	4200/-	17.08.2001	30.11.2001
		4250/-	01.12.2001	10.05.2002

Export of Rice

(Figures in lakh MT, Rate Rs. per MT)

Year	Lifted	Rate	From	to
2000-01	Nil	6750/-	27.02.01	31.03.01
2001-02	19,85,513	5650/- (Raw)	26.05.01	10.05.02
		6000/- Par boiled	26.05.01	10.05.02

Offtake of foodgrains

3847. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to strengthen the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details regarding offtake of foodgrains from the Food Corporation of India from 1998-99 onwards; and

(d) what are the steps taken by Government to enhance the offtake?